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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 25 totaled an estimated 17.9 billion ton-miles, 6.4 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 21 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 360.3 billion ton-miles, down 3.8 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 25 totaled 391,945, down 7.3 percent from last year, but 0.7 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 10.9 percent in the East, 8.2 percent in the South and 4.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 16 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment increased by 1,841 cars (9.1 percent). Thirteen of 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 18 totaled 84,998 trailers and/or containers, 3.6 percent below the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 20 weeks of the year was 1,683,652 trailers and/or containers, down 3.9 percent from 1984.

The figures for flatcar loadings in the weekly TOFC/COFC report have been discontinued. The increased use of longer trailers has made the figures less and less comparable to the past, as many flatcars now carry only one trailer, where they carried two before.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/25/85:

	Loadings in Week ended May 25, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	18,468	D	4,702	20.3	I	2,395	14.9
Other farm products	3,593	D	230	6.0	I	74	2.1
Metallic ores	20,241	D	495	2.4	D	1,172	5.5
Coal	119,643	D	10,898	8.3	I	410	0.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,172	I	1	0.0	I	2,144	19.4
Nonmetallic minerals	10,714	I	136	1.3	D	242	2.2
Grain mill products	10,168	D	891	8.1	D	97	0.9
Food and kindred products	10,945	I	102	0.9	I	13	0.1
Primary forest products	11,991	D	2,193	15.5	D	426	3.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,978	I	45	0.6	I	172	2.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,034	D	1,288	8.4	I	147	1.1
Chemicals and allied products	24,080	D	3,191	11.7	D	613	2.5
Petroleum products	4,775	D	86	1.8	I	301	6.7
Stone, clay and glass products	11,522	D	597	4.9	I	95	0.8
Coke	5,123	D	593	10.4	D	419	7.6
Metals and products	9,341	D	1,211	11.5	I	137	1.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,108	I	1,841	9.1	D	1,197	5.1
Waste and scrap materials	8,604	D	1,981	18.7	D	99	1.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,286	D	283	4.3	I	55	0.9
All other carloads	59,009	D	4,097	6.5	I	952	1.6
LCL traffic	150	D	123	45.1	I	19	14.5
Total Cars Loaded	391,945	D	30,734	7.3	I	2,649	0.7
Corresponding week of 1984	422,679						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (21 weeks)	7,838,202	8,272,076	D 5.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
20 Weeks ended May 18	342.4	355.3	D 3.6
Week ended May 25	17.9	19.1	D 6.4
21 weeks cumulative	360.3	374.4	D 3.8

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